G.O., No. 828 I.

DATED 21st July **1902**.

[Despatch Abstract.]

Periyar Irrigation Works.

Pros: Rev: Deptt, stating that the Chief Engr for Irrigation will be directed, in the P.W.D, to ascertain and report what further establishment is required for the more efficient conduct of the ——, Commd to the officers concerned

D——

P. W. 25.
5,400—12-9-01.

Indexed 24/7

J.S.M.
C 18/7/2

Government {1902} of Madras.

REVENUE.

Recd. 1-7— } 1902.
Regd. 1-7—

Enclosures

Spare copies

Recd. 8-7-02

G.O., No. 521, 10th June 1902.

JUNE.

B

Order No. 828 I d/21st July 1902

Communicated to the officers concerned

To, the Chief Engr for Irrigation Issue
" S. E. " Circle.

DESPATCHED 22 JUL. 1902

10/7/02

8/7/02

Periyar Irrigation Works.

Stating that the Chief Engineer for Irrigation will be directed, in the Public Works Department to ascertain in personal consultation with the Collector and the Executive Engineer of the Madura district, and report what further establishment is required for the more efficient conduct of the —.

11/7
16/7

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

Read —the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture), dated 17th October 1901, Mis. No. 5519 :—

Mr. J. N. Atkinson, I.C.S.

Read—the following letter from J. A. CUMMING, Esq., I.C.S., Collector of Madura, to the Secretary to the Commissioner of Revenue Settlement and Director of the Department of Land Records and Agriculture, dated 12th September 1901, R.O.C. No. 587 :—

Referring to Board's Proceedings, Mis. No. 3390, dated 8th July 1901, I have the honour to state that delays and difficulties are experienced in connection with the Periyár area.

2. In January 1901, the Special Deputy Collector sent the Executive Engineer a list of inam and zamin villages, which had received Periyár water for which no information had been furnished by him. In spite of reminders, it was not till 8th July that the Executive Engineer furnished the information, and even then, not completely. The result of this was that over half a lakh of land revenue was not settled within the fasli or till many months after the crops were harvested. It was the same last year, and this increases greatly the trouble of collection and delays preparation of irrigation accounts. I may refer the Board to Board's Proceedings, Mis. No. 3874, dated 1st August 1901 and subsequent reminders.

3. In G.O., No. 541, dated 15th August 1899, it was ordered that means of irrigation should be provided for waste lands before sale. Since then 1,438·70 acres have been recommended by the Executive Engineer for sale. The area still available for sale is estimated at 14,575 acres. At the same rate it will take about twenty years to sell these and this prolongs the necessity for the special establishment.

4. It is reported that in many villages the provision of irrigation channels has been so slow that the ryots have had to do the work themselves. This delays the development of the project.

5. For waste lands to be sold, irrigability certificates are furnished by the Public Works Department. In G.O., No. 541, dated 15th August 1899, the special Deputy Collector was made finally responsible for these. He has brought to notice numerous cases in which the Public Works Department certificates have had to be modified, and it is clear that the Public Works Department subordinates are either overworked or not supervised or both.

6. No tank-bed lands have yet been sold. The Executive Engineer reported on 17th April 1900 that certain tanks were ready for sale, but the arrangements for drawing them were found to be incomplete and the Chief Engineer in his letter embodied in Board's Proceedings, Mis. No. 4034, dated 9th August 1900, laid down certain conditions to be fulfilled before sale. Two more lists of tanks ready for sale

were furnished on 28th January 1901. None of these were ready as stated and the Executive Engineer has now directed his assistant to inspect all of them before reporting them ready for sale, and has promised to inspect as many as possible himself.

7. The provision of roads throughout the area is a matter of pressing importance. At present the work is being carried out by the Periyár Deputy Collector with the help of two overseers from funds provided by the Taluk Boards. Application was made to Government for assistance as the funds available from Local Funds are inadequate, and to ascertain what assistance was required. Government desired that an estimate for a typical road should be prepared by the Executive Engineer. He was asked on 27th March 1900 to prepare an estimate for the Kallandri-Tirukkanai road (cross road No. 13) 7½ miles in length, but up to date the estimate has not been received.

8. I think these facts prove that the Public Works Department establishment is not strong enough. The present Executive Engineer is a perfect glutton for work and if any Engineer could do the work, he would do it. But it is manifestly beyond his power. It must be remembered that the Periyár cannot yet be described as a going concern. It is in process of development and experience is being gained year by year. In such a condition the irrigation demands close personal supervision. But with such an area to travel over as this district comprises (over 8,800 square miles), it is physically impossible for the Engineer to attend to the various works spread all over the district and yet devote sufficient attention to the Periyár area. I believe I am correct in saying that, from November to July, the Executive Engineer was unable to find time to visit Melur taluk.

9. I may mention that the new bungalows and my new office are being constructed by the Consulting Architect. I can only suppose this is because the Executive Engineer has no time to attend to them, but the result is unfortunate. At present my office building is being supervised by a maistry and the only check on him is an occasional visit by an Assistant Engineer from Madras. I have little doubt that the work would have been much better done, had it been in charge of the Executive Engineer, who is on the spot and I should like to see him set free for his legitimate work.

10. An additional reason for a special Engineer is that the system under which the roads are being constructed does not seem to me the best. Although these are a net work of roads traversing an irrigated tract and in the aggregate will cost a large sum, they are being made by what is practically an unskilled agency. This is opposed to the general rule that estimates for such large works should be scrutinized by a competent agency. The advantages claimed for the present system are speed and cheapness in construction. But, as a rule, the result of speed and cheapness in works carried out without skilled supervision is speedy decay and the advantages are to my mind visionary. I consider that Government should make a liberal grant for providing roads and that the work should be entrusted to the special Engineer.

11. The Periyár Special division would not be a heavy one. But no more, I believe, is the Gódávari central division; it has a heavy division on either side of it, but the reason for its existence as a light division is that it is not as fully developed as the others.

12. Considering the special features of the case, I consider that the Periyár should, for some time to come, be constituted a separate division and given an adequate staff.

Resolution—Mis. No. 5519, dated 17th October 1901.

Submitted for the orders of Government.

2. With reference to the remark made by the Special Deputy Collector, Periyár Irrigation, in his progress report for the quarter ending 31st March 1900 and the Collector in his endorsement thereon, that the abolition of the appointment of the Special Executive Engineer, Periyár, was likely to retard the sale of waste lands and the construction of cross roads, the Board commended to the consideration of Government the desirability of making adequate arrangements for the prompt investigation

and alignment of channels in villages where waste lands lay and for surveying the tank-bed lands which had been recommended by the Executive Engineer for sale. The Government in its order, Mis. No. 1615, dated 2nd July 1901, directed the Board to obtain from the Collector and submit, with its remarks, a special report as to whether any difficulties or delays were being experienced for want of a sufficient Public works staff. In his letter read above, the Collector submits the report called for and recommends that the Periyár should, for some time to come, be constituted a separate division and given an adequate staff.

3. The delays and difficulties experienced are enumerated by him in paragraphs 3 to 10 of his letter and they are briefly as follows :—

(1) Delay on the part of the Executive Engineer in furnishing information regarding the inam and zamin villages which had received Periyár water resulted in more than half a lakh of land revenue not being settled within the fasli or till many months after the crops were harvested, enhanced the difficulties of collection and delayed the preparation of irrigation accounts.

(2) Since the issue of G.O., No. 541, dated 15th August 1899, directing that means of irrigation should be provided for waste lands before sale, only 1,438·70 acres have been recommended by the Executive Engineer for sale, while the area still available for sale is estimated at 14,575 acres. The Collector states that at this rate it will take twenty years to complete the work.

(3) In many villages the provision of irrigation channels has been so slow that the ryots have had to do the work themselves.

(4) The Special Deputy Collector has brought to notice numerous cases in which the certificates of irrigability furnished by the Public Works Department for waste lands to be sold had to be modified.

(5) No tank bed lands have yet been sold.

(6) The Executive Engineer has not yet prepared an estimate for a typical road as ordered in G.O., No. 2552 L., dated 21st December 1899, with a view to ascertain what assistance from Government is required by the District Board, Madura, for the construction of cross roads in the Periyár-affected area.

4. In paragraph 2 of G.O., Mis. No. 1615, dated 2nd July 1901, above referred to, Government observed that the Superintending Engineer of the Circle was of opinion that the Executive Engineer, Madura division, was fully able to undertake the charge of the old Periyár division in addition to the other works in the Madura district and that the subordinate staff employed on Periyár works was sufficient, but the Collector states on the other hand that the delays and difficulties above enumerated prove that the Public Works Department establishment is not strong enough, that the Executive Engineer has to do work spread all over the district which comprises an area of 8,800 square miles ; that the Periyár irrigation being in process of development, demands close personal supervision ; and that an additional reason for a special Engineer is that the system under which the roads are now being constructed by unskilled agency, does not seem to him the best, and that it is opposed to the general rule that estimates for such large works should be sanctioned by a competent agency. He considers that Government should make a liberal grant for providing roads and that the work should be entrusted to the special Engineer.

5. The Board considers that the foregoing facts are sufficient in themselves to show that the existing staff of the Public Works Department cannot cope with the increased work in connection with the Periyár project, and strongly supports the Collector's recommendation that, for some time to come, the Periyár should be constituted a separate division and given an adequate staff.

(True Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) R. V. SRINIVASIAR,
Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.
Copy to the Collector of Madura.

Order—No. 521, Revenue, dated 10th June 1902.

Miscellaneous.

The Chief Engineer for Irrigation will be directed to meet the Collector and Executive Engineer and ascertain and report what further establishment is required.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) M. Hammick

Ag. Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue (Land Revenue).
,, the Public Works Department, with copy of Notes.

Forwarded to the P. W. D.

(By order)

C. Rathavelu Mudr

Registrar.

Exd. T. K. Narayana Aiyangar.

50 Copies.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

NOTES CONNECTED WITH G.O., No. 521, REVENUE, DATED 14TH JUNE 1902.

[SUBJECT.—*Constitution of the Periyár Works into a separate Public Works Division.*]

From the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture), No. 5519, *dated* 17*th October* 1901.

To Under Secretary—

Submitted that the remarks of the Public Works Department on the Board's proposal may be invited.

M.S.
2–11–01.
R.S.
4–11–01.

To Secretary.

E. S. LLOYD.
6–11–01.

To the Honourable Member—

In this department we may endorse every word the Collector says. It is perfectly clear that it is the falsest economy to go on with the inadequate Public Works establishment now provided for the Madura district. We are daily losing revenue, we have 14,500 acres of land to sell which at the present rate will take twenty years to sell, we are disgusting the people who would otherwise be our customers by the uncertainty, and we are neglecting an important safe-guard against famine and distress.

There can be no more promising and paying scheme on behalf of which to press for money than this of the strengthening of the Periyár Public Works establishment.

G. S. FORBES.
8–11–01.

I agree.

H. W[INTERBOTHAM].
13–11–01.

I spoke to Mr. Murray, the Under Secretary in Public Works Department (Irrigation), about this matter and from what he tells me I am not sure that the case has been quite accurately represented in the Collector's letter. There seems some question whether, with the existing arrangements at the dam, the Periyár water has not done pretty nearly all it can do. Apart, however, from the actual extension of irrigation, it seems a question whether the Public Works Department in its superior staff is not greatly undermanned for the work so far as it has progressed and independently of any further expansion of the area served with the water.

The file will now go, as it would in any case in ordinary course, to Public Works Department u.o. for remarks.

G.S.F.
14–11–01.

Department of Public Works (Irrigation) u.o., D. No. 706, *dated* 15*th November* 1901.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

Copy of letter No. 609, M.D., dated 28th April 1902, from the Superintending Engineer, VI Circle, is forwarded u.o. to the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, with the remark that " I." agrees with the Superintending Engineer in

considering that the constitution of a separate Periyár Division is not necessary. A copy of the Superintending Engineer's letter has also been forwarded to *W* with a request that the extra subordinate asked for may be posted to the Madura Division as early as possible.

A. T. MACKENZIE.
5–5–02.
A. W. SMART.
5–5–02.

To the Revenue Department u.o.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

To Under Secretary—

Submitted for orders. If the view of the Public Works Department be accepted, the current may, it is submitted, be transferred to that department for disposal.

M.S.
8–5–02.
T.N.S.
9–5–02.

To Secretary.

N. E. MARJORIBANKS.
9–5–02.

To the Honourable Members—

The Public Works Department appear to have good grounds for thinking the formation of a new division will not be worth the expense, and the papers may, it is submitted, be transferred to them for final disposal.

M. HAMMICK.
12–5–02.

This is the old retort of "you're another" and is to my mind very far from conclusive. I have long been hearing complaints from outside that the progress of the development of the Periyár project is not satisfactory. Whether this result is due to the Revenue or the Public Works Department I do not in the least care. What Government is concerned with is that it should cease. That an Executive Engineer can control the whole of the Periyár works with the rest of the Madura District seems on its face improbable. I think the Chief Engineer for Irrigation should meet the Collector and Executive Engineer and should ascertain and report what further establishment is required. I find it difficult to believe that an extra subordinate will suffice.

G. S[TOKES].
14–5–02.

To *Public Works Department* (*Irrigation*) for remarks, if necessary.

M.H.
14–5–02.

The division has also been supplied with another Assistant Engineer Mr. Molesworth. The progress of development is much quicker than the forecast. The difficulties complained of would have made no appreciable difference.

A.T.M.
15–5–02.

I have nothing further to say, but would suggest a reference to the present Collector who may not agree with his predecessor.

A.W.S.
15–5–02.

To *Revenue* with a statement.

A.T.M.
15–5–02.

From F. J. WILSON, Esq., Officiating Superintending Engineer, IV Circle, to the Chief Engineer for Irrigation, dated 28th April 1902, No. 609 M.D.

In reply to your endorsement No. VI/67 M.D., dated 19th November 1901, I have the honour to forward, herewith, a memorandum on the subject drawn up by the Executive Engineer, Madura division, which has come to me demi-officially.

2. From this it would appear that the constitution of a separate Periyár division is not necessary to meet the delays complained of. The Executive Engineer gave his requirements in the matter of staff in his letter, No. 68 S.E., dated 8th February 1902, copy of which was forwarded to you with my No. C—2–T.C., dated 9th March 1902. The present staff of the Madura division is one upper subordinate short of the scale therein asked for and, if this extra subordinate can be appointed, nothing further seems to be required.

Memorandum for Superintending Engineer, VI Circle.

The following remarks are made on Memorandum No. VI—67–M.D.

2. In paragraph 2 of the Collector's letter complaint is made that there was delay in affording information about the supply of water to Inam and Zamin tanks. There was no avoidable delay. The reference took some time to dispose of, because a number of cross-references were necessary to establish the facts in each case, particularly as regards cases of involuntary and stealthy supply, in which cases evidence beyond dispute is required. The season of 1900–1901 was the first complete season for which I held charge and I continued many of the practices formerly in vogue. The method of acquiring and affording information on the particular point about which complaint is made did not, after trial, meet with my approval and has been altered during the past season. The new method has worked much better than the old one, but I would point out that so long as this information is required, as it now is, a month before the close of the irrigation season, so long will there always be delay in disposing of some cases.

3. As regards the statement in paragraph 3 of the Collector's letter, I do not understand how it can have been made, because I not only personally told the Collector that I would not put my name to the sale of any more large blocks of waste lands under existing circumstances, but at the last sale I had declined to certify certain lands as double crop. As the greater portion of the waste land is similarly situate, the inference is sufficiently obvious.

4. As regards paragraph 4 of the Collector's letter, I am not aware of any avoidable delay on my part. The statement is vague and therefore difficult to answer, but I would point out that there is a Standing Order of Government to the effect that field channels for blocks of less than 50 acres must be dug by the ryots themselves unless they cannot afford to do so; in which case a requisition from the Revenue Department must be sent to the Public Works Department. At the date of the Collector's letter there were no arrears on this account. As regards waste lands all those unprovided with means of irrigation in former years had been provided for except two blocks—one of which was Kulamangalam and the other Anaupur. As regards the first-named, there has been a discussion and the late Chief Engineer for Irrigation declined to sanction the estimate submitted; another has been sent up. The whole of this matter has been dealt with separately. The other block was one of the arrears taken over by me and has since been cleared off. It would never have been an arrear had the Public Works Department been properly consulted about the sales in the first instance.

5. As regards the assertion made about the irrigability certificates, I will say at once that some were wrong. The Sub-divisional officer and subordinates depend for the identification of survey numbers and sub-divisions upon the karnams' information and survey stones. Many of the latter were and are missing and the wrong fields were in other cases pointed out by the karnams. These are the reasons for such errors as there have been. I am informed by the Sub-divisional officer that in many cases the so-called corrections made by the Revenue Department are also wrong. I cannot see that the Public Works Department can be held responsible for karnams' mistakes or for missing survey stones. All that the Public Works Department is concerned with is to say whether water can flow to a certain spot, and if the official primarily responsible fails to identify the spot properly, I do not think it is fair or reasonable to hold the Public Works Department responsible.

6. As regards the first portion of paragraph 6 I personally pointed out to the then Collector that one of the conditions laid down was not practicable, and understood him to agree that, so long as the Public Works Department guaranteed the completion of the drain *immediately after the formation of the fields*, the spirit of the order would be met. As regards the second portion of the paragraph, I am informed by the Sub-Divisional officer that the tanks mentioned were all ready by June 1901 so far as the Public Works Department was concerned, but they were not sub-divided and therefore not ready for sale. The work of sub-division rests with the Revenue Department and not with the Public Works Department.

7. The estimate was submitted to the Superintending Engineer on 5th November 1901 and blue prints sent to the Collector at the same time. The plans and estimates were recently handed back with a request that a memorandum elucidating certain points should be submitted. The memorandum is under preparation and will be submitted when fair-copied. The original Government Order asking for the estimate was dated 6th February 1900, this reached me at the end of March 1900. A proposition statement for establishment was submitted on 6th April 1900. This was sanctioned in G.O., No. 1335 W., on 19th May 1900 which was communicated to me with No. 662 M.D. of 9th June 1900, reaching me on 13th June 1900. The estimate submitted with the proposition statement was not received, sanctioned until 1st July 1900, and the allotment of funds was not communicated to me until 17th September 1900 reaching me 19th September 1900. It will thus be seen that seven clear months elapsed from the date of the original order until funds were allotted. The actual work and plans, etc., in pencil were not concluded until the end of March 1901, after which it was delayed for want of tracers and by preparations for the Fischer suit which has delayed other work in this office.

8. The district is undoubtedly a heavy one, but there is, in my opinion, no necessity to split it up into two divisions. What there is and has been a necessity for is a larger and more *efficient* subordinate staff. This matter has been dealt with in other correspondence. Had there been two divisions, what delay there has been, would not have been obviated. The last sentence of this paragraph requires no answer. I will, however, retort that, though I have personally asked all three Collectors who have been in this district since I have been here to come round the Periyár with me and see things for themselves and discuss them on the spot, not one of them has yet done so. They have doubtless most excellent reasons for not coming, but it would have saved and would save much misconception and correspondence if they had or would come. The fact is that from want of personal knowledge it has not hitherto been realized by the various Collectors how near the project is working to its present ultimate ayacut. When a work reaches the state that this project has reached, it is not wise to go too fast or it will be found that many mistakes will be made in allowing land to be converted which cannot always be irrigated. For instance it has already been discovered that the 12th branch channel need not have been excavated to fully utilize the existing supply. I have no hesitation in saying that more work all round has been turned out; that was the case when it was a special diversion. The actual money spent has been less for the obvious reason that we are nearing the end as the project now stands.

9. I will not proceed to make counter-complaints against the Revenue Department for delays. I will only mention that I am in a position to do so. I have not complained, because I never do so unless I cannot possibly avoid it, as such complaints invariably in my experience have a spirit of bitterness if the man is hard working and they in the end retard work instead of accelerating it, because the spirit of co-operation is not thereby rendered more cordial but less so. I will conclude by reiterating my conviction that a special division would be an absolute waste of money on establishment which can be more usefully employed otherwise. What I consider necessary for the division, I have asked for separately. A portion has already been granted

in that for the last two months there have been three officers for the three Sub-Divisional charges. I only hope the remainder will be granted.

H. T. Keeling.
22-4-02.

The Assistant Engineer proposed will be a help if he is knowledgeable.

H.T.K.

C.E.
7-5-02.

Statement showing the progress of cultivation and revenue under the Periyar project as compared with the forecast.

Year.	Forecast or actuals.	Area irrigated. First crop.	Area irrigated. Second crop.	Receipts from irrigation.	Revenue due to old irrigation.	Revenue due to the project.
		ACS.	ACS.	RS.	RS.	RS.
1896-97	Forecast (1894) *	11,468	7,794	..	..	72,179
	Actuals	53,953	13,098	..	..	1,10,395
1897-98	Forecast (1894) *	22,918	15,585	..	..	1,44,237
	Actuals	72,365	22,040	..	..	2,10,894
1898-99	Forecast (1894) *	34,368	23,376	..	..	2,16,295
	Actuals	79,377	29,648	4,69,422	19,2,720	2,76,702
1899-1900	Forecast (1894) *	45,818	31,167	..	..	2,88,353
	Actuals	93,373	35,859	5,34,116	1,93,066	3,41,050
1900-1901	Forecast (1894) *	57,268	38,958	..	..	3,60,410
	Actuals	104,352	38,517	6,11,483	2,03,858	4,07,625

* Forecast printed with G.O., No. 97, I., dated 3rd February 1894.
Revised forecast under preparation.

A.T.M.
17-5-02.
A.W.S.
19-5-02.

To Honourable Member—

To His Excellency the Governor—

Submitted to Honourable Member for approval. Attention is asked to the remarks of Public Works Department, Irrigation, on the last page of the notes.

M. Hammick.
26-5-02.

I think the reference to the Collector and whether he agrees with his predecessor can be most satisfactorily ascertained by the Chief Engineer for Irrigation in person. The piece-meal additions to the establishment which have been made only shows to my mind more clearly that a general revision of the position is necessary. I have therefore passed the draft.

G.S.
27-5-02.

To Under Secretary—

Submitted that the order below may be sent to the Public Works Department for acceptance before issue. The Secretary has marked it for issue.

M.S.
3-6-02.
T.N.S.
3-6-02.

To Secretary—

For orders on this point. The draft is from orders that Public Works Department Irrigation, have seen and on this ground it need not go to them. But it is a question whether orders to the Chief Engineer for Irrigation should not issue in Public Works Department. Departments are to touchy on such points.

N.E.M.
3-6-02.

67

I spoke to Colonel Smart about this and he said he was soon going to Madura and would see about this. The papers are now sent to Public Works Department for counter-initials, or if they please issue as a Public Works Department order.

M.H.
5–6–02.

To Public Works Department u.o.

It appears to be only necessary for me to counter-initial the order; this I have done. It may go to Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, also for counter-initials.

A.W.S.
6–6–02.
A.H.G.
6–6–02.

To the Revenue Department u.o.

Issue now.

M.H.
10–6–02.

2/30602